Reviewer's report

Title: HIV/AIDS Health Services Provision Reaching the Rural Poor in China: The Case of Three Counties

Version: 1 Date: 17 July 2010

Reviewer: Gerald Bloom

Reviewer's report:

This is a largely descriptive case study of the delivery of treatment for people infected by HIV in three rural counties in China. It provides useful data on a topic about which relatively little has been published in the international literature. This is the major contribution of the paper. The methods are appropriate. One major limitation is the lack of data on the types of health problems treated at different levels, the quality of services provided and the outcomes. This is dealt with, to some extent, with the findings of the interviews with patients and doctors. However, these focus on perceived lack of equipment and training, rather than an analysis of the treatment, itself. Despite these limitations, the lack of knowledge about the organisation of services in China to treat poor rural people infected with HIV means that the findings are of interest.

Proposed Major Compulsory Revision

I recommend that the authors state more clearly the knowledge gap this paper will fill, draw attention to the lack of information on the quality of services and of outcomes and explain why this rather small scale survey with its qualitative findings on some aspects of quality is a useful contribution to knowledge. The section on methods should refer to the limitations of the data as should the presentation of findings.

Discretionary Revisions

The paper would benefit from a rather light final edit by a native English speaker to correct a few minor errors.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.